

truth may determine. "The particulars of the merits of the plan" of hexagonal wood-paving you have "collected from Mr. Stead and Mr. Blackie" are comprised under five heads, viz.:

- 1st. The superiority of the vertical position of the grain of the wood over the inclined, in respect of wear upon the fibre.
- 2nd. The economy of conversion from the round timber.
- 3rd. The compact fitting of block with block, and the grip or collaring which each receives from the six surrounding and close-fitting blocks.
- 4th. The simplicity of laying down, and subsequent economy on this score.
- 5th. The easy method of extracting any single block or series, and laying down again, &c.

I am satisfied, Mr. Editor, that the long experience of Mr. Stead and Mr. Blackie will enable them very readily to define their reasons for assuming each of these positions. With respect to the second, they are unquestionably right, as regards comparison with any other plan that has been publicly demonstrated. But referring to the other four, separately in connection, I respectfully submit to those gentlemen, through your medium, the following queries:—

- 1st. Upon what reasoning, course of experiments, or practical results, is the vertical position of the grain of the wood assumed to be superior to the inclined in respect of wear and tear? And further, is it assumed to be more elastic, too? And why?
- 2nd. Is it assumed that the fitting, gripping, and collaring described in position No. 2 is so perfect as to distribute the pressure thrown upon any individual block among those that surround it, and to prevent the force from being at once transmitted from the surface to the base of the block receiving it? And if it be so assumed, upon what grounds?
- 3rd. In what respect is the mode of laying down the hexagonal blocks, removing, and replacing them, more simple, inexpensive, or easy than in the case of De Lisle's, Carey's, or Grimman's?—Awaiting their reply.

I am, Mr. Editor, yours, &c.  
J. LEE STEVENS.

Southwark, 13th March, 1843.

#### ON PATTERNS OF PAPER-HANGINGS AND CARPETS.

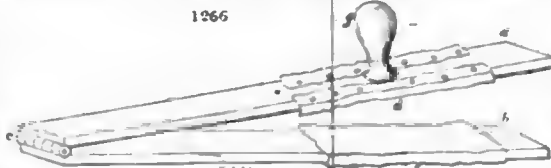
WHILE I am on this topic, it may not be amiss to mention some other absurdities which may not be out of place, although they do not belong to metal-work. I will commence with what are termed Gothic pattern-papers for hanging walls, where a wretched caricature of a pointed building is repeated from the skirting to the cornice, in glorious confusion—door over pinnacle, and pinnacle over door. This is a great favourite with hotel and tavern-keepers. Again, those papers which are shaded are defective in principle; for as a paper is hung round a room, the ornament must frequently be shadowed on the light side. The variety of these miserable patterns is quite surprising, and as the expense of cutting a block for a bad figure is equal, if not greater than for a good one, there is not the shadow of an excuse for their continual reproduction. A moment's reflection must shew the extreme absurdity of repeating a perspective over a large surface with some hundred different points of sight. A panel or wall may be enriched or decorated at pleasure, but it should always be treated in a consistent manner. Flock-papers are admirable substitutes for the ancient hangings, but then they must consist of a pattern without shadow, with the forms relieved by the introduction of harmonious colours. Illuminated manuscripts of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries would furnish an immense number of exquisite designs for this purpose.

The observations will apply to modern carpets, the patterns of which are generally shaded. Nothing can be more ridiculous than so apparently reversed groining to walk upon, or highly relieved foliage, and perforated tracery for the decoration of a floor. The ancient paving-tiles are quite consistent with their purpose, being merely ornamented with a pattern not produced by any apparent relief, but only by contrast of colour, and carpets should be treated in precisely the same manner.

Turkey carpets, which are by far the handsomest now manufactured, have no shadow in their pattern, but merely an intricate combination of coloured intersection.—*Pagein.*

#### KNIFE-CLEANER.

1266



THE furniture of a cleaning-house, or knife and shoe-house, may either contain a wheel for cleaning both knives and shoes, and all moveable parts of grates—such as we shall hereafter recommend as particularly suitable for inns—or the very simple knife-cleaner, fig. 1266, may be used. In this figure, *a b* are two boards twenty inches long, six inches broad, and one inch thick, joined together, but not quite close, by a hinge, at *c*; *d e* are two pieces of buff or belt leather, stretched over the interior surfaces, and nailed on the exterior ones; and *f* is a handle to assist in holding the apparatus steady. "In using it, lay powdered Flinders brick, or any similar dust, on the lower leather; shut the boards together, lay the left arm on the upper board, holding the handle; put the knife, well wiped from grease, between the leathers, and four or five rubs backwards, not sideways, will produce a beautiful polish on both sides. The shoulders and back may be polished by rubbing on the part of the leather turned over." This knife-board has been found to give great satisfaction.

No machine for beating and brushing clothes has yet been invented, but it would be easy to make such additions to the knife cleaning machine above mentioned, as would not only beat and brush clothes, but beat carpets. Already a machine for scouring floors has been patented in America; and we sincerely desire that it may soon come into use in this country, as well as the other machines mentioned: for there are few labours more unavailing for women than scouring floors, cleaning grates, and wringing clothes. The American scrubbing-brush is to be worked backwards and forwards by a lever, operating in the manner of a pump-handle. A flat board, on which the operator stands, is placed upon the floor on castors, and from this rise two uprights to sustain the pin that is the fulcrum of the lever. To the lower end of this lever the scrubbing-brush is attached. It would be easy to modify this machine in such a manner as to render it fit for rubbing tables.—See *Mechanics' Magazine*, vol. xv., p. 109.

#### OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

At a meeting held at the Society's room on Wednesday, the 22nd ult., the Rev. the Master of University College in the chair:

##### NEW MEMBERS ADMITTED.

Sir Stephen Glyne, Bart., M.A., of Christ-church, M.P. for Flintshire.  
The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.A., of Christ-church, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, &c.  
Rev. G. Moberly, D.D., of Balliol-college, Head Master of Winchester School.  
Rev. Edward James, M.A., of Christ-church, Prebendary of Winchester.  
G. R. Markness, Esq., Merton-college.  
Rev. E. T. Richards, M.A., of Corpus Christi-college, of Furlington Rectory, near Havant, Hants.  
Rev. E. C. Swainson, M.A., of Worcester-college.  
M. Buckle, Esq., Oriel-college.

##### PRESENTS RECEIVED.

The Temple Church; an Account of its Restoration and Repairs. By William Burge, Esq.: presented by the author.  
A Few Remarks on Pews. By J. W. Bowden, M.A.: presented by the author.  
View of the Abbey Gateway, &c. at Bury St. Edmund's. By L. N. Cottingham, Esq.: presented by the committee for its restoration.  
Views of the Rectory-houses of Bressingham, Norfolk, and Wetheringsett, Suffolk. By S. S. Teulon, architect: presented by Mr. Teulon.  
Mr. Freeman, of Trinity-college, presented some pen-and-ink sketches of St. Cross Church, Milton, Northamptonshire, and gave some account of the church, which is in the decorated style. The lower part of the tower is square, the upper part octagonal and much smaller, from which arises a dwarf crocheted spire. At the east end of the south aisle is an elegant wheel window, set in a square, with the spandrels open and foliated. In the north aisle is a window of flamboyant character. The pillars of the nave are remarkably light and tall.

The Chairman called the attention of the members to the casts of some very beautiful early English sculpture from Lincoln Cathedral, lately received, and pointed out some of the distinctions between this carving of the best period and that of after ages, as well as modern imitations, in which the boldness and spirit of the early sculpture are generally frittered away and lost, by the too great minuteness of the carver, and that beautiful roundness of the edges which is observed in all the old work is also lost in modern imitation. He took the opportunity of mentioning Mr. Brathwaite's invention of carving in oak by means of iron moulds-burnt in and then cleared with the chisel, the effect of which is in many cases so good that it is hardly possible to detect it from old work; and he thought this invention stood on very different ground from any sort of composition, as we here have the solid oak, only worked by a different process, which is much less expensive than if done entirely by hand. Several very good specimens were exhibited, lent by Mr. Theodore Jewitt for the purpose.

Mr. Sewell made some observations differing from the Chairman's view, and pointing out that as under-cutting cannot be produced by this

process, much of the beautiful effect of light and shade in the old work is necessarily lost. He mentioned that the Earl of Dunraven has had a great deal of very good oak-carving executed by the peasantry on his estate in Ireland, whom he had trained and taught for the purpose under an efficient clerk of the works. He much preferred this method to the employment of machinery, and as one advantage, pointed out the much greater variety of patterns that can be obtained by hand over any moulds.

The President of Trinity made a few observations in support of the Chairman's view, and thought that, provided the effect is the same, the process by which it was obtained is a matter of indifference, and nothing could well exceed the beautiful effect produced in some of the specimens exhibited.

The Rev. W. L. Hussey, of Christ Church, presented the Impression of a Brass, with a curious Latin inscription, in explanation of which he made a few observations: the title of "Armiger Domini Regis" occurred in the inscription, with the precise meaning of which he was not acquainted. The President of Trinity explained it as an "Esquire of the King's body-guard," and observed that it is of frequent occurrence on inscriptions of the 15th and 16th centuries.

The President of Trinity also presented a ground-plan of Garsington Church, which he had made in pursuance of the recommendation of the chairman of the last meeting, and hoped others would follow the example.

The Chairman also wished to direct the attention of the members to a work just added to the library,—"The Churches of Lincolnshire," by S. Lewin, Architect, now publishing in monthly numbers at a very cheap rate, and containing a good deal of information which may be useful, that district being proverbially rich in churches, especially of the decorated style. Some very beautiful examples have already appeared in this work, and though it is not got up so well as might be wished, yet considering the smallness of the price, it is very respectable. He also recommended "The Churches of Yorkshire" to their attention, and was glad to observe that another work of the same kind,—"The Churches of Kent," is announced to appear shortly; he thought that all these undertakings should be encouraged, that they are a favourable sign of the attention which has been awakened to our country churches, and that each person should study principally the churches of his own neighbourhood. He also mentioned that some of Mr. Rickman's sketches of the tracery of windows have been etched by a member of the society, and are now published on single sheets, each containing from eight to twelve window-heads, and the series will be continued, if these are found useful.